

DSHS Council Meeting January 30 & 31, 2008

Holly Noble *4N-Massage Therapy* *current rule 141.34j*
proposed rule 140.338j

My name is Lorelei Noble. I am a Licensed Massage Instructor. I attended the NTSSM years ago.

As DSHS knows, there interns were previously allowed to perform additional massages as an optional internship, while clients paid their tuition. As an 18 yr old independent young adult, I opted to participate in this program because I was living on my own & made barely more than minimum wage. I most likely would not have attended school at that time without the option to enroll in extended internships, which substantially reduced tuition rates.

I benefited from this experience far more than just financially. I built much needed confidence from the extra experience and I felt more prepared for the real world of Massage Therapy.


For the past 5 months, I have been taking additional classes where instructors are receiving training, in preparation to teach the newly added clinical curriculum. I have noticed classmates, who have taken time to practice, do significantly better.

Because practice outside the classroom is not mandatory, some students don't. Their clientele is not accustomed to the clinical techniques required by the new curriculum so they don't commonly practice on their current clientele. I work with a Chiropractor, so I regularly see clients who are seeking clinical massage. I definitely see the benefits for the students, if they have additional practice.

Based on my history as a Student, Therapist and Instructor I believe very strongly that **increasing optional internship** beyond the proposed 50 hours will be a win win **for all parties** involved for the following reasons:

Allowing at least 175 **optional** internship hours is:

1. not excessive based on newly adopted clinical massage competencies.
 - a. FYI only (massage #3 f. TMJ, Should, Knee, Hip, Spinal Joint pain massage) vs. old curriculum {Muscles & Joints (become more supple)}
2. It is a **win for students** because it encourages competency, confidence and lower tuition rates per hour.

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3. It is a win for **teachers** because it allows sufficient time to teach kinesthetic learns
 4. It is a win for the **community** because it provides clinical low cost massage.
 5. It is good for the industry by creating the **market** for **clinical massage**
 6. It is a win for **massage schools** by allowing them to offer substantially reduced tuition rates to the diligent, non disadvantaged; that compares to DRS state programs offered, only to the disadvantaged.
 7. (175 optional internship hours) allows **privately owned massage schools** to compete with state schools, community and career colleges **without** developing an entire financial aid department.

...and as you know competition is the industry balancer. As a whole competition encourages each school to continue in **their pursuit** of excellence financially, scholastically and practically.

8. It is a win for **DSHS** because 175 hours added to the current 500 hour curriculum totals 675 which is the minimum requirement for ACCST Accreditation. **Accrediting agencies could relieve DSHS of curriculum management and oversight responsibilities.**

Please, help us provide a win/win solution by allowing at least 175 **optional internship** hours.